

Bubonicon 2023 Costume Contest

OVERVIEW / BASICS

- We celebrate diversity! We are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all contestants. Contestants may bring a service animal or one “support” person up to or on to the stage.
- **AWARD CATEGORIES!** Youth (under age 14), Beginner, Intermediate, Master, Best of Show, Best Use of Theme. Other awards will be given at the discretion of the judges.
- **HELP PANEL!** There will be a Contest Information/Help panel 12:00 Noon Saturday where you can register, give us your sound files, **optionally** share “pre-judging” details with the Coordinator, get help with last-minute design/repairs, and have any questions answered. *THIS IS OPTIONAL. Not attending the panel will NOT COUNT AGAINST ANYONE.*
 - IT IS NOT REQUIRED NOR RECOMMENDED TO WEAR THE COSTUME TO THE PANEL.
 - Each contestant may show the costume’s construction and other details to the Coordinator. This is recommended. The details will be shared by the Coordinator with the Judges.
 - The contestant is *strongly* urged to bring photos/literary descriptions as **HARD COPY** documentation (if design is not original) of the costume to leave with Coordinator. Remember, we are not as familiar with the source material as you are, and we won’t be as “wowed” if we don’t understand your costume.
- **PRE-RECORDED AUDIO!** *ALL SOUND FILES (ONLY on USB/Thumb drive in mp3 format) MUST BE TURNED IN BEFORE 4:00 PM ON SATURDAY.* The Con is open to all ages and there will be children in the Contest and audience. **The audio will be pre-screened for content (race, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender identity...)** If the content is judged unacceptable, it will be rejected. The contestant will be notified either via text to cell phone number provided on the entry form or in the Green Room if unable to contact contestant prior to 5:45 pm.
- **CHECK IN:** Contestants must be in the Green Room between 5:45-6:15 pm **OR BE DISQUALIFIED.**
- **MINIMUM COVERAGE!** “Swimsuit” coverage – PG rating please.
- **RESERVED SEATING:** For contestants to watch the rest of the show after their presentations.
- **STAIRS:** We will have handlers to help contestants navigate the stairs before and after their presentations. **No contestant is required to ascend stairs as part of their presentation.** All abilities are welcomed and the contestant is encouraged to stay on the ground floor as needed.
- **JUDGE BRIBES:** A time-honored tradition at our Con (and highly encouraged by the judges) – be creative and use bribes related to your costume! **This is for fun and completely optional.** Ask for ideas at the Saturday panel if you cannot think of anything and want to participate. It will not affect your chances of winning.
- **PHOTOGRAPHY** is allowed during the Contest. Our photographer asks that contestants pose a moment at the end of the stage, after the presentation, for an official photograph.

HOW TO ENTER / RULES

- Each contestant (or one representative for a group presentation) must fill out one entry form. Submit only one form per group presentation (limited to six persons max due to stage size).
 - Please download the form prior to the Con and **LEGIBLY** complete your well-thought-out script. This will improve the MC's ability to enhance your presentation in front of the audience and judges. (Not sure what to write? Come to the help panel on Saturday).
 - Entry forms available at Bubonicon.com; the Saturday panel; or Con Registration desk.
 - Completed forms and optional sound files **MUST** be turned in to the Contest box at the Con Registration desk (or Saturday panel) before Saturday at 4:00 pm.
 - Due to contestant scheduling, **if you have not turned in your registration by 4:00 pm Saturday, you will not be allowed in the Contest as a contestant. You MAY be allowed to walk the stage as a participant, at the discretion of the Coordinator.**
- Contestants aged under 14 are welcome to compete in our Youth category. They must have a parent or legal guardian sign their entry form (attendees of Con under age 14 require adult presence at all times).
- We are able to play pre-recorded sound for your presentation.
 - All sound must be pre-edited by you to a maximum of 60 seconds for individual contestants. *THIS IS NOT A CHALLENGE* – use only as much time as you need – it can be shorter! Group entries may have an additional 30 seconds per person up to a maximum of 180 seconds (three minutes). **Practice your entry ahead of time. Use a timer. You will be surprised HOW LONG 60 seconds can be.** You don't want the audience to find out the hard way!
 - Music will begin when entrant steps off the stairs onto the stage unless previously arranged with the Contest Coordinator Geneva.
 - Anything that exceeds the time limit will be rejected.
 - Please edit files to **mp3** format. All other sources will be rejected (**no cell phones!**).
 - Your sound file must be the **only file** on the USB/Thumb drive you provide to the Con.
 - Your name must be in the name of the file or written on the outside of the drive. **Your drive will not be returned unless you make arrangements with the Coordinator.**
 - If you do NOT provide any audio content, our staff may select generic sound to play during your presentation. This may not be what you want, so providing audio files is highly recommended.
- **Do not leave anything on-stage.** For safety reasons, things like confetti, fireworks, glitter, flash paper, rose petals, water and animals (except service animals) are strictly forbidden on-stage. Leaving *ANYTHING* behind may disqualify your entry. No open fire is allowed.
- Presentations should be a delightful surprise for the audience and judges. **However, do not surprise the Con Costume staff or MC!! Let Coordinator know about anything that may catch us off guard in advance.**
- On-stage is the only time where EVERYONE can see you show off the costume– your chance to be IN CHARACTER. Be confident! Have fun! Your audience wants to be entertained. Remember, “short is good, funny is better, short and funny is best.”
- Make sure the movement across the stage is designed to showcase the front, sides and back of the costumes. This is a costume contest, not a skit contest. Feel free to strike poses for one or two moments each during the time on stage to allow the audience to appreciate the details and design. Remember to practice large, theatrical movements as even the last row of the audience wants to see and understand what is happening. THE STAGE IS 8' x 20'. Feel free to practice at home in a space this size.

CONTEST JUDGING CATEGORIES & TIMELINE

Contest entries will compete in multiple categories. Each category will have up to three Awards. These awards are not monetary, but include a Certificate, possibly a Ribbon or prize, and of course, Bragging Rights.

Youth Costume: for anyone under age 14.

Beginner Costume: for beginning costumers. A Contestant may **not** enter in the Beginner level if they have won a major prize in a Costume Contest before or are a Costuming Professional.

Intermediate Costume: for those who are no longer Beginners, but are still honing their costuming skills. Contestants may **not** enter at this level if they have won Best of Show or are a Costuming Professional.

Master Costume: Anyone may enter and compete at this level. A contestant **must** enter at this level if they are not eligible to enter as a Beginner or Intermediate, and are age 14 or older.

The Contest Coordinator reserves the right to alter, rescind or transform the categories on-the-spot based on the number or type of entries received by the deadline of 4:00 pm on Saturday. All contestants will be informed in the Green Room prior to the Contest if this occurs.

Judges will also award a Best of Show and Best Use of Theme. Any additional Awards will be given at the discretion of the Judges during deliberations.

TIMELINE

For Those Not Familiar With The Contest, This Is What To Expect (Chronologically):

- Contestants download and print forms from the Bubonicon.com website prior to the Con, or starting Friday, pick up forms at the Registration desk. Starting Saturday, the forms are available at the Saturday Panel plus the Registration Desk.
- On Saturday, contestants may attend the 12:00 pm panel (not in costume!) for advice, finishing help, script writing, repair work or pre-judging. If you are having trouble with sound files, we *MIGHT* be able to help you then. We don't promise any results. Bring a thumb drive. A laptop will be available with internet access.
- Contestants submit entry forms and sound files (if any) prior to 4:00 pm on Saturday at either the panel OR in the box on the Registration Desk.
- Contestants report *IN COSTUME* to Green Room (Library) from 5:45-6:15 pm (if not present by 6:15 pm, entrants will be disqualified). Please inform the Contest Coordinator Geneva (privately) of any special needs that require accommodation by 6:15 pm (anytime earlier is better – text me on Saturday 508 517 1855).
- Contestants are:
 - photographed for Judges' reference (during the green room time);
 - shown the path into the (empty) Main Room with Stage (6:20-6:25 pm);
 - returned to Green Room;
 - Urged to consider water and bathroom breaks.
- Audience is admitted to Main Room at 6:35 pm.
- Contest begins at 7:00 pm. **Green Room will be empty and unlocked so leave items at your own discretion. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items.** Please plan accordingly.
- When you end your presentation on stage, please **POSE FOR PHOTOGRAPHER**. Then **GO TO JUDGES TABLE** so they may ask you any questions, you can present your (optional, only for fun) bribes, and you can point out specific important things you want them to know.

- Youth category presents first.
- Beginner, Intermediate and then Master categories present.
- After adult presentations end, the Green Slime Awards entertainment show occurs on stage while the Judges deliberate in private. Green Slime/Deliberations last approximately 30 minutes, so if necessary, this is a good time to attend to personal matters.